



St John's School Newsletter

9th October 2026

Values of this half term

Hope & Aspiration

"For I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11



Harvest Celebration

The school Harvest celebration was a real delight on Thursday morning. It was lovely to have parents joining us and to see the very generous food donations that the children brought in. Members of the Eco-council told us about the food bank that our donations will go to:

'The Food Bank is at the New Zion Christian Fellowship which is on Cole Green Lane in Welwyn Garden City. It is a charity and is part of the Churches Together in Welwyn Garden City and they aim to show God's love in practical ways. Every week around 60 people visit the food bank where they are given free emergency food parcels. If families would like to give more food to the Food Bank it is open every Wednesday morning. Non-perishable food items such as long-life milk, cereals, tinned meat are appreciated. They also welcome items such as cleaning products and toiletries. In the last 12 months the food bank has helped more than 2000 local people in Welwyn and Hatfield.'

Thank you, also to those children and their families who joined the church's Harvest Festival last Sunday morning. Your participation through singing in the choir, being one of Revd Kathryn's helpers, leading the prayers and the readings was very much appreciated.



Attendance

Week Ending 2nd October 2026

Robins	98.7%
Starlings	95.7%
Kingfisher	95.7%
Sandpipers	93.9%

Beacon Pupils

Robins - Ava has made a wonderful start in Robin Class. She listens carefully and is really aware of the people around her, showing care and awareness of what other people might need. Her creative ideas draw her friends into games and she is welcoming to all who join in. Her learning attitude is one of thoughtful determination and she will keep trying until she perfects a skill. We can't wait to see where her learning takes her, keep up the great work Ava.

Starlings - Ruben for his wonderful strength and determination in his learning. Ruben is an excellent mathematician working hard on finding the fact families. He has shown great achievements with writing his own Leaf man story using great handwriting, finger spaces and punctuation. In Geography he has shown great knowledge of the human and physical features of Edinburgh and built the city using our wooden blocks. He has done this with great confidence working well with his friends. Ruben is kind and caring, it has been wonderful to see him growing in confidence.

Kingfisher - Isabelle has grown in confidence throughout the week, sharing ideas enthusiastically and showing excellent focus. She has been a kind and supportive friend to others. In English, she has worked hard to write descriptive sentences, while in maths she has used problem-solving skills to add and subtract across a boundary with her talk partner. Her creativity has shone through her abstract art, and she shared some thoughtful reflections in RE. Well done Isabelle.

Sandpipers - Lillia has been on fire recently! We have been really impressed with her positive attitude, work ethic and enthusiasm for learning. She worked incredibly hard on her balanced argument in English and we were really impressed with her fantastic ideas as well as her careful editing. In maths, she has shown great perseverance in her written methods and applying this to reasoning. Lillia also read a prayer in our Harvest celebration with such beautiful expression and confidence. Well done!

Family Fireworks Friday 13th November **A message from the LSA**

We are officially kicking off preparations for this year's fireworks display, and we'd love your help to make it fantastic! This is always such a brilliant community event, and every penny raised goes directly back into supporting the children and our school.

Events like this simply can't happen without your support. There are so many ways to get involved, and whatever you can offer makes a huge difference, whether that's sharing fresh ideas, sourcing a raffle prize, or giving your time to help on the night.

The volunteer rota will be shared in the coming weeks, but if you have any preferences on what you would like to do please let us know.

If you'd like to be part of the organising, we are holding a short planning meeting online this Monday evening at 7:30pm.

Please let your class rep know if you would like to join.

LEMSFORD FETE Bank Holiday Monday **3rd May 2027**

We will soon be preparing for the annual Lemsford Fete - Bank Holiday Monday 3rd May 2027. As you know this is a hugely important event for the school, church and local community. Its continued success is due to the efforts of the whole community. On Wednesday 14th October there will be the first fete meeting of the new school year. We would love to have more parents join us for this initial meeting which will start at 8.00 p.m. and will take place in the school hall. Do please come along - everyone is welcome. We would love to hear about any new ideas you might have for the fete. We look forward to seeing you!

Holidays in School time

We kindly remind parents that holidays should not be taken during term time, as this disrupts children's learning and can impact their progress and well-being. Attendance at school is a legal requirement, and requests for leave during term time will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances.

We appreciate your cooperation in planning family holidays outside of school terms and thank you for your continued support in ensuring the best possible

On-line safety and Cyber-security

On Monday Sandpipers class and staff took part in two separate workshops on cyber security led by specialists from the local police force. The workshops were very informative and gave lots of everyone lots of useful advice about on-line safety. The following websites are aimed at supporting parents:

[Parent's guide to cyber security](#)
[Keeping Children Safe Online | NSPCC](#)

Fundraising at St John's

BUILDING FUND

The Building Fund is an on-going fund for the development of the school buildings, recent developments have included the new children's toilets and cloakrooms, the external steps to the hall and Sandpipers class, repairs to the flat roof and the fencing and tarmac in the Robins class outdoor area. Diocese fund these projects but as a school we contribute 10% of the cost. For this fund we would appreciate monthly contributions or one-off payments. Further details are available on the school website.

Open days

Reception places September 2027

We are planning this year's Open Days for families of children who will be beginning their Reception year in September 2027. The dates are:

Wednesday 14th October 10.00 - 11.00 a.m.
Thursday 15th October 1.30 - 2.30 p.m.
Tuesday 20th October 1.30 - 2.30 p.m.
Wednesday 21st October 10.00 - 11.00 a.m.

Please ask anyone you know, with a child in this age group, who is looking for a reception place to ring us to book a place on one of the tours. We have information leaflets in school that can be given to anyone interested. Many thanks!

More from this week...

Time to unveil the new plaque on the playground equipment.



Our Harvest Celebration at St John's Church





This week we explored the changing seasons and looked at the autumnal changes in our forest. We harvested our own 'pumpkins' and then looked for and collected our own fallen leaves to create caterpillars / wreaths.



Site Safety Message

The safety of our children is paramount. Parents are **not** permitted to use the staff car park between 8.30 and 3.30 to turn around, drop off or collect your child.

Staff, deliveries and emergency vehicles must be able to access the car park at all times of the day.

Parents must use the pavement alongside Lemsford Road and into the side gate by Treetops - not walk through the car park at any time.

Children that are late should come to the main office using the pavement only, never through the main gate/car park.

Also, please ensure car wheels are not on pavements, blocking pedestrian walkways.

Sickness Reporting

A reminder to please ensure you ring the office **each** day your child is absent by **9.10am**

You can find our Attendance Policy on our website.

Running Late?

Please let the school office know before 3.15pm

School Meals

As the kitchen needs meal choices by 9.25am, please either ring the school beforehand and pre book a choice or send in a home packed lunch if your child misses morning registration for any reason.

Trainers and Shoes

Just a reminder that the shoes and trainers that children wear to school each day must be completely black including any logos and sides of the soles. Trainers that are worn only for PE can be other colours but we would prefer them to be a dark, plain colour. Please bear this in mind when you are replacing shoes and trainers over the coming months.

Many thanks for your cooperation with this.

Payments / Balances

Trips/Events/Workshops/Swimming/Meals

Please check your account(s) regularly and clear any unpaid invoice.

If you have difficulty making payment, and have not already contacted Mrs Boylan, please do so.

Nut Free School

A reminder that we are a nut free environment, packed lunches and snacks must not contain nuts.

Sandwich filling containing nuts, such as Nutella® and chocolate nut spread are not permitted.

Pesto is also not allowed.



Breaktime snack

A reminder that breaktime snacks should only be a piece of fruit/vegetable or plain biscuit. Chocolate or crisps are not allowed.

Grapes in School

A gentle reminder that grapes are to be cut in half lengthways.



Please label school uniform so it can be reunited with your child.



Parking

We would strongly encourage parents to park in the public carpark at Lemsford Village Hall on Brockett Road rather on the road beside the school, whenever possible. By parking outside the school, traffic is being impacted and it is difficult for cars to drive past. The Village Hall car park is large and is close.

We would appreciate your support with this.



show you care, park elsewhere



DIARY DATES

Autumn Term 2026

12th October - BikeAbility Week

14th October - Harvest celebration at St Alban's Cathedral—Sandpipers and Kingfishers

26th-30th October - Half Term

13th November - LSA Fireworks Event

27th November - Occasional Day (school closed)

29th November - Advent Sunday

8th December - Pantomime*

10th December - Nativity performances - Robins and Starlings classes - 9.15 a.m. and 2.15 p.m.

13th December - Candlelit Service at St John's Church 4pm

14th December - School Christmas Lunch

14th December - Rocksteady Concert (time tbc)

15th December—Christmas Concert

17th December—Carol Service

18th December - Last day of term (1.30pm finish)

2026/2027

School Holiday Clubs

Don't forget to book your places for October half term and Christmas.



Hello from Revd Kathryn

Hello

A big thank you for helping make harvest so special this year.

In collective worship on Thursday, we practised noticing things we usually take for granted, like light switches, keys, even a glass of water! We heard about the ten men Jesus healed, and the one who stopped, turned round and said thank you. Then we set the children a Harvest Challenge: notice one good thing each day and say thank you for it. So if your child comes home thanking a light switch, you'll know why!

The children were also wonderful at our Harvest All Together service on Sunday morning. From the choir's singing to the readings, prayers, deaconing and carrying of the cross, it was all led by the children, and all brilliant! And it was lovely to chat to new families over lunch in the hall. Thank you, too, for everything you've given to our harvest collection for the food bank.

For those who like to get organised, here are a few dates for the weeks ahead, including a first look at Christmas. Gulp!

Sunday 11th October, 11am: Sunday Club in the church service.

Sunday 1st November, 11am: All Together worship, a lively, relaxed service for all ages in church.

Sunday 8th November, 3pm: St John's@3 Light Party! Fun for all the family, in the church and Annexe.

Sunday 15th November, 11am: Sunday Club in the church service. Please note the change from our usual second Sunday of the month!

Sunday 6th December, 11am: All Together worship, starring Sunday Club!

Sunday 13th December, 4pm: All Together Carols by Candlelight, a special Christmas service for all ages.

Tuesday 22nd December, 6pm: Carols by the Barrels, family carol singing in The Sun pub.

Friday 25th December, 11am: All Together Communion for Christmas morning.

Hope to see you soon!

Revd Kathryn and Revd Dan